

BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

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FATAL SHOOTING.

Oscar Waller Killed by Ben Blankenship.

Deplorable Ending of Trouble Between Two Young Cousins of This County.

That deadly combination, bullets and booze, got in its diabolical work not far from this city on Thursday evening last. A tragedy was then enacted whose results will be far-reaching and lasting. One young man, Oscar Waller, sleeps in a new grave on the hillside overlooking the home which, in the flush of a stalwart young manhood, he had left that morning, only to be brought back the next day a mangled, bullet-pierced corpse. His slayer, a youth not yet grown to man's estate, is a fugitive from justice, a hunted criminal, not daring to seek the light of day, with a reward for his capture, and, if the story told is true, with punishment swift and condign awaiting him. This hunted man is Ben Blankenship, and, more's the pity, he is a blood relative of the man whose life he took.

Of course, this paper has neither partiality for nor prejudices against either of these parties. In common with the entire public it laments the tragedy and deplors the conditions which made it possible. The NEWS has sought diligently to get at the truth, the bottom facts of the homicide, and in relating what has been told to it by disinterested parties it "nothing extenuates, lays down naught in malice."

It is said that between Oscar Waller, son of Lindsay Waller, and Ben Blankenship, son of Mose Blankenship, a sort of enmity had existed for years, in fact ever since they went to school together. The bad feeling frequently broke out and showed itself in quarrels and sometimes blows.

On Thursday, March 31st, the two met near the mouth of Blaine. Both, it is said, had been drinking, and they soon began to quarrel. Ben, so it is alleged, struck at Oscar with a knife, and Oscar replied by striking Ben with a stone. Mutual friends interfered and the young men separated, going different ways.

Waller lived just this side of Potter station, four miles west of this city. A couple of miles below his home stands what is known as the old Harmon Burke house, now occupied by Sid Hensley. Waller reached this place and stopped to rest and get a drink of water. How long he had been there before Blankenship came along and stopped this paper is unable to say. He was seen to go in the direction of Buchanan.

When he arrived at Hensley he immediately approached Waller, who was sitting on the ground in front of the house, and said, "Do you want to take this up again?" Waller said nothing and Ben again asked him if he wanted to take it up again. Waller said no, he didn't, but that he was not afraid of him. Blankenship immediately drew a pistol and began to empty it into the body of the helpless victim. Every shot took effect. One arm received two bullets, another went through the lapel of his coat and another pierced the bowels.

Waller fell back and was carried into the house. It is said that after Blankenship had emptied his pistol he "broke" the barrel and reloaded, saying he had a notion to go into the house and blow Waller's brains out. However, realizing what he had done, he hastily went to the home of his father, who lives in West Virginia, at the mouth of Tabor Creek, and has so far evaded arrest.

The shooting occurred about five o'clock, not long after the evening train for Ashland had passed. Medical aid for the wounded man was sent for, and Dr. Jay Carter, of Paducah, who was in the neighborhood on professional business, was soon found. Recognizing the gravity of the case he asked for

consultation, and Dr. L. H. York, of this city, was hastily sent for. The doctor responded and reached the wounded man as soon as possible. He declared that an operation was the only possible chance for saving the young man's life, and that it was impossible to perform it satisfactorily under the existing conditions.

A handcar was hurriedly obtained and Waller was placed upon it. With the two physicians and the men to run it the car made record time to Louisa, and Waller was at once carried to Riverview hospital and made ready for the operation. The wounds in the arm were comparatively trifling, but the surgeons saw immediately that the wound in the abdomen demanded their serious care. The patient was chloroformed by Dr. Bromley, and Dr. York, assisted by Dr. Carter, proceeded to ascertain the extent of the damage done by the bullet.

The ball had entered the right side, ranged downward and to the right, lodging near the appendix. In its course it had pierced five folds of the small intestine. These had poured out their contents into the abdominal cavity. The wounds in the intestines were stitched, the cavity cleaned and everything done in the best possible way to save the man's life, but no hope of ultimate recovery was held out. Waller rallied from the anesthetic, but he rapidly grew worse until he died. The end came about nine o'clock Friday morning. Waller's father had accompanied his stricken son to the hospital, and his grief at the death of his boy was pitiful to see.

The body was made ready for burial, and, placed in a casket, it was taken on the afternoon train to the residence of the father, reaching the desolate home about twenty-four hours after the shot which killed Oscar Waller was fired. The funeral occurred on Saturday morning and was very largely attended by relatives and friends. The Rev. L. M. Copley, of Louisa, conducted the service.

A warrant for the arrest of young Blankenship has been issued and placed in the hands of Deputy Sheriff James Clayton. Clayton went to the scene of the homicide Friday afternoon and remained in the neighborhood all night, but, as before mentioned, Blankenship has not yet been found. Our information is that a reward has been offered for his apprehension, and that no effort will be spared to effect his capture.

Three years ago yesterday a cyclone struck this section of the country. One of its freaks was to upset a handcar which was on its way to Fullers station. Ben Blankenship was one of these. Both bones of his left forearm were broken and he was otherwise bruised and injured.

HANGING AT WHITESBURG.

Floyd Frazier to be Executed About the Time This Paper Goes to Press.

The following is a dispatch from Frankfort:

Much amusement is afforded Floyd Frazier, who is to be executed at Whitesburg, Letcher county, Thursday, by the queer construction of the scaffold on which he is to be hanged. The scaffold is the first ever seen in Letcher, for, although, according to the reports sent out from that county, it has been the home of the feudists for years, no one has ever been legally executed within its borders.

A guard has been placed around the county jail and Jailer William Hall has been ordered to let no one see Frazier. The only exception is Frazier's minister, Elder David Maggard. Frazier has expressed a desire to have Elder Maggard with him during his last hours. He talks but little. The scaffold has been prepared and, unless Gov. Willson commutes the sentence to life imprisonment Frazier was executed Thursday.

LATER:—The Governor granted a respite to Frazier on the eve of his execution until May 19th.

Miss Beattie Reid pleasantly entertained some friends Wednesday evening in honor of her guest, Miss Ida Coffman, of Huntington.

The Miners' Strike.

The fact that on Thursday last 300,000 miners laid down their picks will affect the coal operators of this region only favorably. The mines at Cannel City are similarly affected. The following touching subject comes from the Lexington Leader:

"There will be no shut down of the mines in the Eastern Kentucky coal fields, from which Lexington gets its chief supply, according to a statement made here Friday morning by E. H. Doyle, a leading coal operator and representing owners of eight of the largest mines, as the Eastern Kentucky mines are all non-union and therefore are not affected by the suspension order of the United Mine Workers' Association."

"Mr. Doyle, who has offices in the City National Bank building, represents the Yellow Jacket Coal Company, which owns and operates eight big mines located near Paintsville, Johnson county. Mr. Doyle says that there will be no cessation of work in his company's mines and that the same conditions prevail in the rest of the Eastern Kentucky districts, where the miners are not members of the union."

"According to State Mine Inspector Prof. C. J. Norwood, about 10,000 miners are employed in the Eastern Kentucky mines and they are not affected by the suspension order."

"In the western Kentucky mines, which employ about 9,000 men, many of the miners, however, are unionized and the shut down order has affected quite a number, though not all of these mines."

Saltpeater Man Killed by Train.

Andrew Sexton, an employee of the N. & W. at Williamson, was run over by an incoming freight and instantly killed just above the light plant on Sunday about 12:30. He was standing on the east bound passenger track watching No. 15 pull in, and apparently did not see the freight coming up on the same track on which he stood. His body was cut entirely into two pieces and horribly mangled. Sexton was a man about fifty years old, his home being at Saltpeater, W. Va. He left a wife and five children. His remains were taken to his old home for burial. This makes the third man killed in the same way within a stone's throw of the same place since the first of the year. Strange to say, all of them were old men, too.—Williamson Enterprise.

Was Awarded Verdict.

Elbert Dutton, of Johnson county, aged 16 years, was awarded \$1000 damages for injuries sustained while working for the Sandy River Coal Company, at Williamsport, in 1909. Dutton got his hand caught in a wheel and lost several fingers and sustained several other permanent injuries. The case went to trial Thursday afternoon and a verdict was reached by the jury early Saturday morning.

Clean Up the Streets.

A considerable number of Louisa citizens have cleaned the streets adjacent to their property and it is suggested that this example should be followed by everybody. It will be a comparatively easy task for each one, while the results of such efforts taken as a whole will give the town a very marked improvement in appearance. Let everybody enter heartily into this movement for a cleaner Louisa.

Grand Lodge Awarded \$9000.

In the case of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky against the Illinois Surety Company, Judge Walter Evans, of the Federal Court, awarded the Grand Lodge a verdict for about \$9,000. The surety company asked for an appeal, which the court refused to grant.

As To Hydrants.

Does the fire marshal know that the hydrants are in good working order? A fire in Ohio recently caused a loss of \$50,000 because the hydrants on which the fire department relied were out of order. It will not hurt anybody or anything to try ours.

COWS NOT FREE.

Liberty of Louisa's Streets Taken From Them.

City Council Settles a Long Drawn Out Struggle at Tuesday Night's Session.

The Louisa City Council, alias the City Fathers, met in regular session last Tuesday night. Every member was present, and quite a large and interested audience listened to the proceedings. Routine business was first disposed of. This consisted of hearing reports from the Marshal, Police Judge and other officials. Then followed a report from the various committees, standing and special. The business known as "unfinished," left over from the previous meetings, is then called for and completed or continued as the case may be. After this there is a call for new business, and on Tuesday night some important and interesting matters came before the board and was properly attended to.

One of these vitally interests us all, and has been a bone of more or less acrimonious discussion for many a day. Council settled the matter Tuesday night, and it is safe to say that it will not be disturbed for a long time, at least for as long a time as the life of the present Council. That vagrant cow which pulls down your fence, defouls the sidewalks of the city, and breaks down the beautiful shade tree which you planted and nursed with so much care, must be kept up at all hours, day and night, or the owner must pay fifty cents per day for each day she is a prisoner. If the penalty is not paid at the end of ten days the animal will be sold for cash to the highest bidder and the proceeds of the sale, minus the costs, will be paid to the former owner of the cow.

A big batch of replevin bonds has collected in the Police Court, and the Council shows some curiosity to find out who's who and what's what. To ascertain this City Attorney Jay Vinson and C. L. Miller have been appointed to go through the dusty records and report the result of their examination to the Council.

A well-nigh forgotten ordinance relative to keeping the streets clean and free from waste paper, tin cans, straw and similar trash was unearthed, and the Marshal was directed to have it strictly enforced. This applies to alleys and back yards and one's premises generally. All things combustible must be burned and everything else must be hauled away and effectually disposed of.

The article regarding the use of water for sprinkling the streets, which appeared in last week's NEWS, has borne fruit. The subject was generally and thoroughly discussed Tuesday night. Not only was sprinkling by water discussed, but the matter of using crude oil as a material for laying dust was also taken up, but not for long. The Louisa Water Company offers to erect a stand-pipe and to supply enough water to keep the streets well sprinkled, and to do this free of charge to the town, if the town will furnish the sprinkling cart, horse and driver. Mayor Burns, C. C. Hill and R. L. Vinson were named as a committee to investigate the subject, to find out the cost of a cart, the horse and driver, etc., the sprinkling plugs to continue in use by those who desire to use them. It begins to look like a better Louisa. In the meantime let's clean up as we go along, and stay clean.

Richard Garred Nearly Recovered.

The Louisa friends of Richard Garred, of the West Point Military Academy, will be glad to learn that he has recovered from his severe illness and is now attending classes. It was thought for some time that on account of his illness he would be compelled to come home and thus seriously affect his prospects for a military career.

Big Damages Awarded.

The largest verdict ever returned into the Johnson Circuit Court in a personal injury action was that returned by the jury in the case of T. J. Spencer, administrator, against the North-East Coal Company, in which \$5000 was awarded for the death of Irvine Spencer, son of T. J. Spencer, who lost his life while blasting slate in North-East Mine No. 2, in March, 1909. The case went to trial Monday a week ago and continued until the following Wednesday when it was given to the jury. The jury had the case for sometime. An appeal will be taken.

Spencer, who was 18 years old, was an exceedingly bright boy and had worked himself up to a good position in the mine. At the time he met his death he was put to work to remove some slate and in making a shot a large piece fell and killed him instantly. A few months later his father qualified as his administrator and engaged C. B. Wheeler, of Ashland, and M. S. Burns, of Louisa, to institute suit against the company. John F. Hager, of Ashland, and Vaughan, Howes & Howes, of this city, appeared for the company—Paintsville Herald.

The Spencer family was well known in Lawrence county, having lived in the Georges Creek country many years. Their relatives are numerous.

Another Floyd Killing.

On the right fork of Beaver Floyd county, Tuesday of last week Monroe Vance met an untimely death at the hands of unknown assassins. Two reports of the killing have been received. One to the effect that three men slipped up behind Vance who was plowing in a field and threw a line around him and strangled him to death, while another report is that Vance was shot from ambush.

Mrs. Vance, mother of the murdered man, was in Paintsville when the news of the killing was received. She took the first train for home.

Bitten by a Dog.

Jack Bach, a pupil at the K. N. C., was bitten by a dog last Saturday, the worthless cur inflicting a wound which required the attention of a physician. The city ordinance which requires a census and listing of dogs for taxation should be enforced to the letter. It should be no spasmodic affair, but a thorough and complete enumeration, with instant death for every cur on which the tax is not paid on demand.

THE OIL WELLS.

Development in the Local Field is Coming Rapidly.

From present indications this will be a very active season in the local oil field. Contracts for new rigs and for other work in connection with drilling wells are being closed right along.

O'Brien well No. 2 is now well under way, and drilling is going along night and day. Actual drilling began last Saturday.

Material for building a derrick for the well between O'Brien's and Walbridge station is now on the ground.

A well is to be drilled on the farm of L. A. Garred near Gallup, and the rig material is already on the site.

It is reported that the Damron Oil Company has secured a considerable amount of desirable territory on Lick Creek and will drill a well on it as soon as possible.

A. C. Smith's well No. 3 will be completed in about a week.

The derrick for the well on Vinson branch, seven miles southeast of Louisa, is finished and drilling will begin in a few days.

The Republicans of the Fifth West Virginia District will hold their Congressional convention at Welch on the 23rd of June. There are two candidates, James A. Hughes, the incumbent, and a Mr. Lilly.

To Sprinkle the Streets.

Mayor John G. Burns is trying to make an arrangement that will insure the sprinkling of Louisa's streets during the summer, and his efforts should meet with hearty support from all citizens. There is nothing more disagreeable than flying dust, and there is no good reason why Louisa should suffer from it now.

The proposition under consideration is for the city to buy a sprinkling cart and for the citizens to subscribe to a fund for operating it.

The waterworks people propose to erect a pipe suitable for expeditiously filling the tank of the wagon. The water is already being paid for by the city. The expense would be light on each citizen and the arrangement would insure uniform sprinkling.

The sprinkling plug plan that has heretofore existed is a failure. About half of the plugs are reported to be out of order, and if they were all in working order it would be impossible to cover more than half the street area from them.

Help this good movement along.

N. & W. Wreck.

Norfolk & Western passenger train No. 17, due at Coal Grove about 6 p. m., was wrecked at Watt's pumping station, on Twelve Pole, thirty-five miles beyond Kenova, Friday evening at 4:11 and Engineer John Griffith, of Portsmouth, was instantly killed. His fireman, John Vaughan, also of Portsmouth, was dangerously injured, while a number of passengers were more or less seriously hurt. Among these was Irvine Campbell, of Ashland, who is a traveling man well known in Louisa. His injuries are not serious.

Death of Mrs. R. C. Burns.

On Friday last Mrs. R. C. Burns, of Catlettsburg, died after a long and painful illness. She was a most estimable woman, one whose death is lamented by all who knew her. She left a husband and three sons to mourn the loss of a devoted wife and mother. The interment occurred on Sunday last, after services in the M. E. Church South, of which she had long been a consistent member.

She was the wife of Rowland C. Burns, son of Judge John M. Burns, of Ashland, and brother of M. S. Burns, of Louisa.

Miss Istalena Fagg Entertained.

Miss Istalena Fagg was hostess for a delightful party of friends on Wednesday evening. The amusements offered were varied and attractive. Flinch, hearts—two kinds, music, dancing and delicious refreshments occupied the time until quite a late hour. The occasion was one of thorough enjoyment.

The guests were Mrs. A. J. Garred, Misses Shirley Burns, Julia Snyder, Victoria Garred and Opal Spencer; Messrs. Renshaw and Alex. Garred, of Huntington, Charley York, Junior Lackey and Ed Spencer.

Fiscal Court.

The spring term of the Lawrence Fiscal Court began Tuesday, with the following magistrates attending: John Compton, John Hughes, J. H. Woods, J. C. Green, C. C. Holbrook, A. H. Miller, Andrew Belcher and A. H. Moore, with Judge David Boggs presiding. It is simply a court of claims this time, with no person to be elected anything, and interest in the proceedings is confined to those having claims.

Died in West Virginia.

A letter from Maben, Wyoming county, W. Va., requests the NEWS to publish the death of Liddle Damron at that place. She was the daughter of Clint Damron, who formerly lived in Louisa. She was in the 17th year of her age.

Pay Your City Dog Tax.

April 11th is the last day on which you may pay dog tax due the city of Louisa. After that date all delinquents will be subject to a fine of five dollars per day. Tax must be paid to James L. Carey, City Treasurer.